

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-10 HEW-06 STR-04

TRSE-00 /037 W

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R 031158Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL KHORRAMSHAHR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 244

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, IR

SUBJ: PROBLEMS AFFECTING DATE EXPORTS

FOR RYRON MORTON NEA/IRN

CONSULATE APPROACHED BY LOCAL DATE EXPORTERS CONCERNING REFUSAL FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN (FDA) TO ALLOW COMMERCIAL USE 50,000 CARTONS UNPITTED IRANIAN DATES VALUED \$600,000. DATES PURCHASED BY NABISCO COMPANY AND SHIPPED TO SAVANNAH, GEORGIA. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FDA FOUND PARASIDE INFESTATION RATE THESE DATES EXCEEDED 5 PER CENT MAXIMUM ALLOWED.

APPARENTLY FDA AND ANBISCO AGREE POSSIBLE SOLUTION IS TO ALLOW NABISCO TO PIT DATES IN US. THIS SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCES INFESTATION AND WOULD BRING RATE BELOW 5 PER CENT STANDARD. PROBLEM IS THAT FDA NOW DEMANDING ZERO PER CENT INFESTATION AFTER PITTING. LOCAL EXPORTERS FEEL THIS IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN AND EXCESSIVE, SINCE NORMAL STANDARD FOR ALL DATES SET AT 5 PER CENT.

ACTION REQUESTED:

DATE CULTIVATION IMPORT ASPECT OF LOCAL ECONOMY AND EXPORTERS PROMINENT MEMBERS OF LOCAL COMMUNITY. EXPORTERS CONCERNED REJECTION THIS AMOUNT DATES (ONE THIRD OF THEIR SALES TO US) SERIOUS BLOW THEIR REPUTATION AND FUTURE SALES PROSPECTS. REQUEST YOU QUERY FDA:

1) IS ABOVE CORRECT ACCOUNT OF CURRENT SITUATION?

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2) IF SO, WHY FDA UNWILLING ALLOW NORMAL 5 PER CENT STANDARD ON DATES TO BE PITTED IN US.

NO ONE CONCERNED QUESTIONS VALIDITY OF 5 PER CENT STANDARD NOR
FACT THAT INFESTATION THIS LOT ABOVE THAT LEVEL. LOCAL EXPORTERS
SIMPLY WANT FAIR AND SPEEDY SOLUTION PROBLEM IF POSSIBLE.
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